

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for providing a secure data channel between a user and one or more associates, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) receiving at a processing server, from the user, at least one of
user profile information,
a user identification,
a user acceptance, and
a hardware signature;

10 (b) receiving pushed information from the associate, including at least one of
an update to said user profile information,
related information, and
personalized content for the user; and

15 (c) conveying, to the user, personal information including a selectable union of at least one of
said user profile information,
said related information, and
said personalized content.

20 2. The method according to step 1, wherein said step (c) is conveyed to said user using at least one of:

a web interface,
an interactive voice response (IVR) system,
a wireless access device,
a synchronized device,
an interactive television (TV) device,

a palm-top computing device,
a computer system,
a thin client,
a personal digital assistant (PDA),
a computing device,
a communications device, and
any other device having at least one of direct and indirect access to the Internet.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - (d) sharing access to said personal information to at least one of an individual user and a family.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said family can include at least one of:
 - another user,
 - a plurality of users, and
 - a plurality of related users.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said associate can include at least one of:
 - 20 a business,
 - an organization,
 - an affiliated association,
 - an unaffiliated association, and
 - any other association between a repository of data and the user whose specific
 - 25 data is contained within said repository.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said associate can include at least one of:

- a manufacturer,
- a distributor,
- a retailer,
- 5 a service provider,
- a non-profit,
- a sports franchise,
- 10 an information provider,
- a news agency,
- a content provider,
- a television program,
- a movie,
- 15 an entertainment, and
- an agency.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- (d) providing cumulative aggregate user profile information to said association

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said pushed information can include at least

20 one of:

- textual data,
- digitized audio data,
- digitized video data,
- graphical image data, and
- 25 other data.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said pushed information can include at least one of:

prescription information,
automobile service information,
purchased product information,
sports information,
television programming information,
deductions information,
travel reservation information,
charitable contribution information,
encrypted information,
financial information,
membership information,
educational information,
voicemail messages, and
any information related to the user.

10. A system for providing a secure data channel comprising:

a processing server operative to receive at least one of

20 user profile information,
user identification,
user acceptance, and
a hardware signature;

one or more associates operative to convey at least one of

25 updates of said user profile,
related information, and

pushed personalized content information into a database of said processing server; and
a component that provides a selectable union of said pushed personalized content with said user profile information for conveyance to a user.

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11. A groupware computer program product for displaying personalized user information provided by a secure data channel between a user and one or more associates, wherein said computer program product is embodied on a computer usable medium and includes program logic comprising:

10 a groupware display module operative to enable a processor to display an associates list to the user,

15 wherein said associates list is operative to enable said processor to access a user selectable union of pushed personalized content relating to the user from said one or more associates.

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12. An instant message service computer program product for displaying personalized user information provided by a secure data channel between a user and one or more associates, wherein said computer program product is embodied on a computer usable medium and includes program logic comprising:

20 an instant message service display module operative to enable a processor to display an associates list to the user,

25 wherein said associates list is operative to enable said processor to access a user selectable union of pushed personalized content relating to the user from said one or more associates.

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13. An inflight entertainment (IFE) portal computer program product for displaying personalized user information provided by a secure data channel between a user and one or more associates, wherein said computer program product is embodied on a computer usable medium and includes program logic comprising:

5 an IFE display module operative to enable a processor to display an associates list
to the user,

wherein said associates list is operative to enable said processor to access a user selectable union of pushed personalized content relating to the user from said one or more associates.